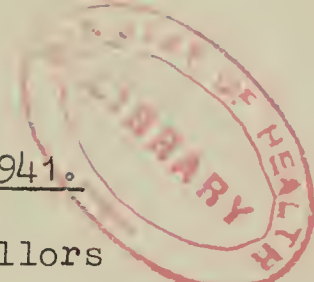


ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1941.



To His Worshipful the Mayor and to the Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Lowestoft.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the health of the borough for the year 1941. By direction of Ministry Circular 2604 such report is again an interim one, detailed local statistics and figures of population being withheld from publication on grounds of national security.

Owing to recent movements of population comparison of statistical rates with previous years and with other areas is now of little value. It will however be seen that local figures continue favourable.

The officers and staff of the department have continued to give willing and cheerful service under sometimes difficult conditions.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

V. R. WALKER.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1942.

A. Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Rates for the Area.

	<u>LOWESTOFT</u>	<u>Comparative figures for ENGLAND & WALES.</u>
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1941 ...	19.1	14.2
STILL BIRTHS per 1,000 total (live & still) births ...	26	35
DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated average population ...	16.6	12.9
DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE -		
All infants per 1,000 live births	54	59
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births ...	52	--
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ...	74	--
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES -	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births</u>	
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.48
Other Puerperal Causes	0.00	1.75
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2.23</u>

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	60
" " Measles (all ages)	2
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	3

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which requires comment and no cause of sickness or invalidity has been specially noteworthy.

B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The general framework continued unchanged and there has been no alteration in the staff since the last annual report.

Midwifery Service. The services of the Lowestoft Nursing Association and of the one remaining municipal midwife continued completely adequate for the demands of the municipal midwifery scheme which continued to work smoothly. The number of summonses for medical assistance was eighty-one.

Maternity Service. Five maternity cases were admitted to the Lowestoft Hospital under the standing agreement. In addition one difficult obstetric case was transferred to the Norfolk and Norwich obstetric unit, while 60 mothers were evacuated during the last four weeks of pregnancy for confinement in the reception area maternity hostels of the Ministry of Health.

Maternity & Child Welfare. Towards the end of the year the two antenatal clinics were re-organised. The District Nursing Association midwives now examine and advise their cases on the municipal premises, where the expectant mothers also receive Ministry of Food permits together with clothing coupons. The three child welfare centres have continued their work unchanged during the year, taking on additional duties connected with Ministry of Food distribution of assisted milk, cod liver oil and fruit juices.

Health Visitors. The routine work has been continued despite frequent movements of the child population.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Only work of a nature necessary to avoid serious nuisances has been undertaken, the staff continuing on the reduced number of two inspectors. No particular difficulties were encountered during the year.

D. Housing.

No special problems have arisen; work carried out under Section 9 of the Housing Act has been restricted to those repairs of a very necessary and urgent character.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. Routine inspection under the Milk and Dairies Orders was continued throughout the year. Nineteen samples were taken for bacterial count and fourteen for phosphatase test.

(b) Meat.

Slaughterhouses. 1249 visits were paid to these premises by the inspectors during the year, and 10,946 carcasses were inspected. This figure includes animals slaughtered outside the Borough and brought in to the Wholesale Meat Supply Depot. The total amount of fresh meat and offal condemned as unsound and unfit for food amounted to 108,437 lbs, of which 100,182 lbs or 92.39% was tubercular.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, ex- cluding cows		Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	2075			1852	2811	4208
Number inspected	2075			1852	2811	4208
All diseaser except Tuberculosis - Whole carcasses condemned	1	3		6	4	16
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	54	21		8	186	102
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than tuberculosis	3.9			0.7	6.8	2.8
Tuberculosis only :- Whole carcasses condemned	13	74		2	-	18
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	246	367		23	-	710
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	33.7			1.3	-	17.3

1129 visits were paid to premises in respect of the retail sale of meat.

Other Foods. Other articles found unfit for human consumption and accordingly condemned were as follows :-

Imported meat 11,242 lbs, corned beef 10,785 lbs, fish 4,606 lbs, assorted canned meats 430 lbs, runner beans 10,640 lbs, mixed groceries 2,356 lbs, mixed foods 94 tins, evaporated milk 99 tins, butter 30 lbs, chocolate 5 lbs, brawn 48 lbs, flour 39 lbs, sugar 4 lbs, lemons 33 lbs, swiss rolls 96 lbs, sweets 4 lbs. Total - 40,511 lbs.

(c) Adulteration. During the year 100 formal samples were taken. Of these, 99 were pronounced genuine. The remaining sample, namely steak and kidney pie, was reported by the Public Analyst to be devoid of kidney. No further action was taken.

F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year 1941.

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	17	9	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	3	3	1
Diphtheria	6	6	-
Typhoid	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	1	1	-
Puerperal pyrexia	6	-	-
Pneumonia	9	-	10
Ophthalmia neonatorum	3	-	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Whooping Cough	11	-	2
Measles	26	-	2

It will be seen that the general incidence of infectious disease was again low during the whole of the year and at no time was there epidemic prevalence of any such.

Scarlet fever. The total of seventeen cases for the year was again remarkably low. The quarterly incidence was 7, 1, 5 and 4.

Diphtheria. The quarterly incidence of the six cases was 2, 1, 0 and 3. Cases were fairly mild and no deaths occurred.

Cerebro-spinal fever. Only three cases occurred among civilians during the year as against seventeen in the previous year.

Paratyphoid. Only one case, of a fairly mild type, was confirmed.

Puerperal pyrexia. Six cases were notified during the year, the quarterly distribution being 1, 3, 1 and 1. The clinical picture was generally mild and no case required admission to hospital for treatment. There was no evidence of any common source of infection among these cases and no death occurred.

There was a fairly mild prevalence of measles mainly in the first two quarters of the year, and of whooping cough mainly in the third and fourth quarters.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS. In co-operation with the national campaign 228 children under 5 years completed a course of injections and 268 over 5 but under 15 years. In addition the parents of children in locally evacuated school groups received a circular canvass from the office resulting in the immunisation of 61 per cent of such groups during the year.

Borough Isolation Hospital.

The following table gives the number and nature of the admissions during the financial year ended 31st March 1942, both for the borough and from other authorities.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Admitted from area of Borough</u>	<u>Admitted from other authorities (including Services).</u>
Scarlet fever	8	6
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	1	4
Diphtheria	6	5
Paratyphoid	1	1
Erysipelas	-	1
Measles	-	9
Rubella	-	4
Whooping cough pneumonia	-	1
Chickenpox	-	2
Mumps	-	10
Observation cases	9	21
	<hr/> 25	<hr/> 64

The annual number of cases admitted from the borough was again low. Certain cases from the contributing rural areas continued to be accommodated inland at the Stowmarket Isolation Hospital. Up to the end of the financial year eleven cases of scarlet, three cases of diphtheria, one of measles and one of whooping cough and pneumonia were admitted there.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1941 are given for the area in the following table :-

AGE PERIODS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
1-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15-	5	7	-	-	3	9	-	-
25-	5	3	-	1	7	3	-	-
35-	4	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
45-	1	2	-	1	-	1	-	1
55-	2	2	1	-	2	-	-	1
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	18	15	4	3	15	13	1	2
Registrar General's figures supplied after final transfers	11	13	4	1

The mortality figures present some increase for the area over the previous year but, with marked population movements, only the rates for large areas become statistically of value for the present.

Of the 29 tuberculosis deaths during the year, one from tuberculous meningitis and one from respiratory tuberculosis occurred as un-notified cases. The efficiency of notification in the area continues fairly satisfactory.

No action was required under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

